

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY321424
Inspection date	05 September 2007
Inspector	Jane Pamela Berry
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since January 2006. She lives with her husband and two children, who are aged five and six years. They live in the Clifton area of Swinton, Salford. The family have a pet cat. All of the property is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed back and side garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for four children altogether. There are currently two children on roll, who both attend on a part time basis.

Parks, a nature reserve area, shops, the library, and a health and fitness centre are all within walking distance of the premises.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a clean and healthy environment. The childminder's effective routines ensure areas used by children are suitable. The children usually wash their hands after

using the toilet and prior to eating, however, despite gentle reminders from the childminder, they sometimes forget. On occasion, this is overlooked and results in a potential risk of the spread of infection. For example, children touch a number of sandwiches on the plate before selecting the one they want. The children are made aware of the need to maintain personal hygiene when touching pets, such as stroking the cat or handling the tortoise.

Children enjoy activities that help to raise their awareness of healthy living, such as discussing the five a day fruit and vegetable scheme, which helps to promote their well-being. They enjoy mostly healthy snacks as agreed with parents on admission.

The children enjoy a wealth of robust and active games in the garden and outdoors generally, for example, when visiting local amenities. They have wonderful access to their very own adventure play equipment in the garden, which has many features for sliding, climbing and balancing. Consequently, they are developing agility and confidence in physical skills. The childminder encourages children to take age appropriate challenges, such as supervising them playing ball games in the cul-de-sac. This keeps children interested, happy and well motivated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

At the time of the inspection the family home is being redecorated, which is causing some disruption to the household, However, with amenities on the ground floor this has minimal impact on the children in situ. All fire safety equipment is securely in place and the childminder has easy access to a well equipped first aid box, if required.

The children learn about risks through effective role models and discussion. They are warned not to be too adventurous on the higher level monkey bars, particularly when younger children are present. This helps to minimise accidents and raises their awareness of danger. However, the gates are not locked and, therefore, pose a potential risk of unauthorised entry. Furthermore, some heating pipes located in the toilet are accessible, which is a potential hazard.

The childminder ensures children are aware of stranger danger and associated risks when using the computer. She has a satisfactory level of awareness of safeguarding and has downloaded relevant information to increase her knowledge in this specialist area. However, she has had difficulty obtaining the guidance booklet, 'What to do if you think a child is being abused'. She benefits from regular advice and support from professionals and other local childminders.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled and content in an environment that is very conducive to their needs, aspirations and wishes. They are able to follow their interests and have a very good selection of toys and equipment. They enjoy constructing models and use their imagination with small world toys, such as a dolls house and fantasy characters.

The children have only recently started with the childminder, therefore, limited evidence is available to demonstrate what children have achieved. They particularly enjoy playing a guitar and other instruments to form a band. The childminder supports their ideas and encourages them to develop their ideas to include opportunities for dance, and expression through art and craft activities. The children relish these activities, talking animatedly, as they reflect on what they did earlier in the week.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children show good levels of awareness of care and concern for animals, explaining how the guinea pig, that they are looking after for a friend of the family, needs plenty of grass for grazing. From discussion, it was established that they discover and learn about different lifestyles, such as Chinese New Year and Diwali. They have access to positive images of disability through the use of loan schemes and visits to places of interest.

The childminder develops the children's knowledge and positive attitudes are well fostered through discussions, often extending their experiences at school. For example, learning about different religious beliefs and customs. The childminder encourages children's behaviour by setting ground rules and by having high, but realistic expectations. They rise to these and behave well. She rewards their efforts mostly using praise to acknowledge their achievements, for example, celebrating when they achieve wonder worker awards for their efforts at school.

Parents are well informed of the practices adopted, by being given explanations and a copy of the childminder's written policies; including information on how to make any concerns known and resolved. This is good practice as it helps parents to understand what to expect from the provision and how their child will be cared for. However, there are some omissions noted, such as the absence of parental consents being obtained for all eventualities, prior to children's admission.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder having been operational for one week offers satisfactory provision. She ensures all adults in the household are suitable and that children are always supervised when visitors are present. This helps to keep children safe from harm. The registers and most records are suitably maintained, however, parental consent for the seeking of medical attention in an emergency; car insurance and permission to transport children in the car are also not securely in place. This is a breach of the regulations. However, as soon as the childminder realised the oversight she made suitable arrangements. The childminder is proactive in developing written policies. However, although she has most procedures securely in place, minor revisions to the complaints process and the statement for safeguarding children were noted. This identified that the childminder's knowledge in these areas, whilst satisfactory, is not comprehensive. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- extend the risk assessments to include; areas on the first floor; security of the premises and the control of all potential hazards
- revise and update knowledge of the safeguarding and the complaints processes
- ensure that permissions are sought from parents for all eventualities, for example, to seek medical attention in an emergency; to transport children in the car and ensure any vehicle used conforms to legal requirements and is appropriately insured.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk